

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 3-5,8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20-22, 24, 26, 28-30 as follows:

3. (AMENDED) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that there is a dosing element extending in the receiving chamber which, at a movement of the sponge-like body with respect to and in contact with the surface to be treated, effects that liquid substance can be absorbed by the sponge-like body.

4. (AMENDED) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the receiving chamber is bounded by the dosing element and a surface of the sponge-like body, and the inflow opening can be released by a tilting movement of the dosing element, in particular as a result of a lateral movement of the sponge-like body over the surface to be treated.

5. (AMENDED) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the receiving chamber is bounded by the dosing element and the housing of this dosing element and is provided with an outflow opening via which the liquid substance can be supplied to the sponge-like body, the inflow opening being larger than the outflow opening and the inflow opening being releasable by a movement of the sponge-like body with respect to the surface to be treated.

8. (AMENDED) A device according to claim 5, characterized in that there is an aeration opening which connects the receiving chamber with a space between the receiving chamber and the sponge-like body.

9. (AMENDED) A device according to claim 5, characterized in that the outflow opening is formed by a gap between the housing of the receiving chamber and the dosing element extending therethrough.

11. (AMENDED) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that there are several, in particular two, receiving chambers.

13. (AMENDED) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the thickness, density and structure of the sponge-like body is such that between the outflow of the substance from the outflow opening and the arrival of the substance at the outer surface layer of the sponge-like body there is a time delay corresponding to at least the time between two, preferably at least six, successive times the device is operated.

15. (AMENDED) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the holder or at least part of the holder and preferably the reservoir or a part thereof is made of a transparent material or is provided with a window.

18. (AMENDED) A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the viscosity of the substance is, on the one hand, sufficiently low so that the substance can pass the inflow opening and is, on the other hand, sufficiently high so that the substance does not leak from the sponge-like body when no force is exerted thereon.

20. (AMENDED) A device according to claim 18, characterized in that the viscosity of the substance ranges between 500 and 20,000 mm²sec⁻¹, in particular between 500 and 9,000 mm²sec⁻¹.

21. (AMENDED) A device according to claim 18, characterized in that the substance contains an active component having a relatively high viscosity, preferably greater than 5,000 mm²sec⁻¹, in particular greater than 10,000 mm²sec⁻¹, and an auxiliary component having a relatively low viscosity, preferably less than 5,000 mm²sec⁻¹, in particular less than 2,000 mm²sec⁻¹.

22. (AMENDED) A device according to claim 18, characterized in that the substance in the reservoir for treating a leather surface, such as, for instance, the upper surface of leather shoes, comprises at least one first component imparting a shine to the leather as well as at least one second component possessing properties for spreading the substance over the leather surface.

24. (AMENDED) A device according to claim 22, characterized in that the first component consists of a polydimethyl silicone having a relatively high viscosity, preferably greater than $5,000 \text{ mm}^2\text{sec}^{-1}$, in particular greater than $10,000 \text{ mm}^2\text{sec}^{-1}$, and the second component consists of polydimethyl silicone, which may or may not be aminofunctional, having a relatively low viscosity, preferably less than $5,000 \text{ mm}^2\text{sec}^{-1}$, in particular less than $2,000 \text{ mm}^2\text{sec}^{-1}$.

26. (AMENDED) A device according to claim 22, characterized in that a pigment, in particular a water-dispersible pigment, is provided in the sponge-like body, at the bottom of the space in the sponge-like body where a receiving chamber is located, or in a receiving chamber itself.

28. (AMENDED) A device according to claim 22, characterized in that the pigment is dispersed in the substance contained in the reservoir.

29. (AMENDED) A device according to claim 22, characterized in that a pigment dispersed in a polar solvent, such as an alcohol or an ether, in particular a glycol ether, or a coloring agent dissolved therein is added to the substance in the reservoir.

30. (AMENDED) A device according to claim 22, characterized in that a pigment dispersed in a non-polar solvent, such as white spirits, or a coloring agent dissolved therein is added to the substance in the reservoir.

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3-5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20-22, 24, 26, 28-30.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

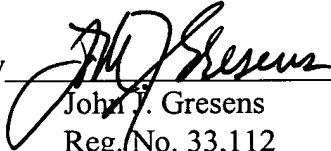
Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: September 28, 2001

By 
John J. Gresens
Reg. No. 33,112

JJG/pjk